Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTI
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTU
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
1148 AGAD BLDG, ROOM 223
WEST LAFAYETTE IN 47907-114
Phone (765)494-8371
Phone (800)363-0469
FAX (765)494-4315
FAX (800)363-0475

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 16

Field activities gained momentum as the week progressed and many farmers were planting corn, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. The best progress was made in the central and southwestern regions of the State. Recent showers have helped the dry soil conditions in some areas, but more rain is needed to help replenish topsoil and subsoil moisture. Farmers continued to prepare fields as field conditions permitted.

WINTER WHEAT

Sixty-five percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed**, compared with 44 percent last year and 31 percent for the 5-year average. Wheat condition improved slightly from a week earlier. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 75 percent good to excellent, compared with 84 percent at this time a year ago.

SEED BED PREPARATION

Five percent of the **corn** acreage is planted compared with 3 percent last year and the 5-year average of 2 percent. A few scattered fields of **soybeans** have been planted around the State. Field preparation continues to make good progress this season. Farmers were applying fertilizer and nitrogen, tilling soils, spreading chemicals, purchasing supplies and preparing equipment.

OTHER CROPS AND LIVESTOCK

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was rated 8 percent surplus, 66 percent adequate 20 percent short and 6 percent very short. **Pasture condition** was rated 3 percent excellent, 35 percent good, 38 percent fair, 19 percent poor and 5 percent very poor. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Calving and lambing remain active.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 4.5 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 16 percent very short, 33 percent short, 45 percent adequate and 6 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 32 percent very short, 42 percent short, 24 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn Planted	5	1	3	2
Winter Wheat Jointed	65	32	44	31

CROP CONDITION

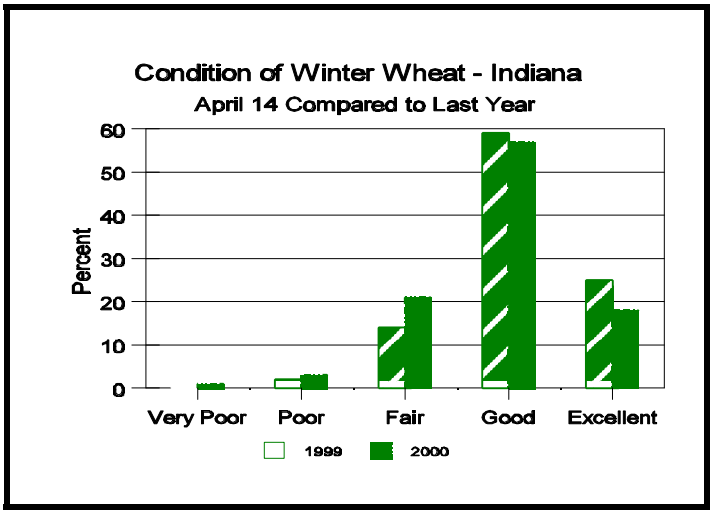
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Winter Wheat 4/16	1	3	21	57	18
Winter Wheat 4/9	1	4	22	54	19
Winter Wheat 1999	0	2	14	59	25
Pasture	5	19	38	35	3

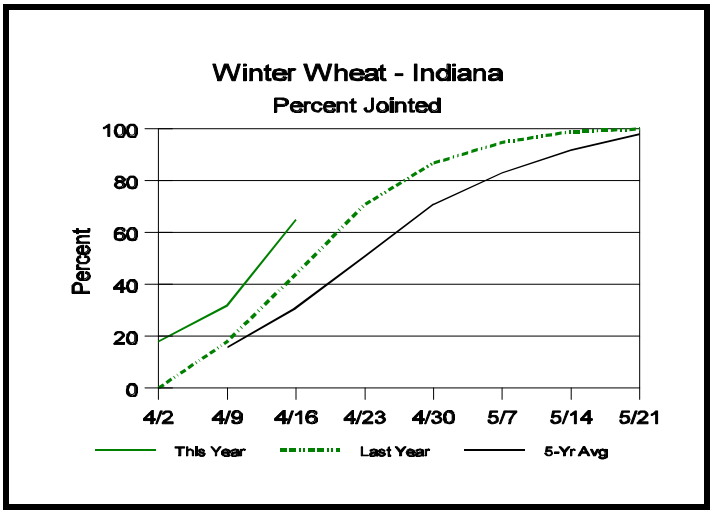
SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	16	21	0
Short	33	29	4
Adequate	45	43	50
Surplus	6	7	46
Subsoil			
Very Short	32	33	1
Short	42	37	10
Adequate	24	27	61
Surplus	2	3	28

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
–Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://info.aes.purdue.edu/agstat/nass.html

Crop Progress





Getting Off To A Good Start

- ! Making the most of your herbicide program
- ! Stressing good agronomic practices

Production input cost is a primary concern to Indiana producers this year. One of their main concerns is the price of weed control. Going after the cheapest products, while a good idea, works only if they are right for the weeds that are present in a field. There is no substitute for knowing the week spectrum for each field and matching the herbicides for those weeds. There are few if any truly cheap herbicides left on the market. If only one species of weed escapes the herbicide program in populations high enough to cause economic problems to the crop, additional applications will be needed. This could cause the overall cost of the herbicide program to increase by 50 to 100%.

If the field is to be no-tilled, then the burndown program must be complete. This can only be accomplished if the right burndown products are used at the correct rates and when the temperature is favorable for good kill. Changing the rates of one of the mixture components may be needed. If there is a large number of broadleaf weeds such as marestail, fleabane, prickly lettuce, etc., additional 2,4-D might be needed; if a large number of grass species are present, then a little more Roundup or Touchdown will help. If the weeds can be controlled with Gramoxone, maybe an additional half pint will help achieve complete burndown. Adding a little more product to the burndown is cheaper than having escapes or regrowth which may take an additional late application of a product at the full labeled rate. Likewise, making the application a few days later when the temperature is warmer will cause the herbicides to work better. The other option is to add a residual herbicide to the burndown spray. In corn, adding a product which contains atrazine in the burndown tank mix can improve the control of many of the hard-to control weeds in no-tilled fields. There are many residual soybean herbicides that can be mixed with burndown treatments to boost the performance of the herbicides and provide a clean seedbed to start the crop off right.

A healthy uniform crop stand can do wonders toward competing with weeds, especially late emerging weeds. Getting the crop off to a good start will make any herbicide program work better and will best allow less than maximum rates of postemergence herbicides to perform. A healthy and uniform crop stand will also come closer to eliminating the need for an additional postemergence herbicide application to control late emerging weeds.

Listed below are 10 tips that I feel will help make a successful weed control program, and at the same time keep the cost of the program at a minimum.

1. Review last year's herbicide program. If there is a potential for carryover, don't use herbicides with similar modes of action as those used last year. The same is true for herbicide resistance. Rotating crops is not enough to prevent resistant weeds from emerging; one should also rotate herbicide modes of action.
2. Compare herbicide products as to their effectiveness on the weeds that are in a given field, and buy the products or program of products that is most economical for controlling those weeds.
3. Don't cheat on the burndown herbicide program. Use full rates of Roundup, Touchdown, 2,4D, or paraquat to achieve a complete control of existing weeds. Dandelions and marestail can be controlled with more 2,4-D and less Roundup or Touchdown in the mixture. Grasses will need more Roundup or touchdown and less 2,4-D.

(Continued on Page 4.)

Weather Data

Week ending Sunday April 16, 2000

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
								April 1, 2000 thru April 16, 2000				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest(1)												
Valparaiso_Ag	75	28	47	-3	0.07	1		1.88	-0.21	5	26	-1
Wanatah	77	27	46	-2	0.07	1	51	1.17	-0.85	4	22	+3
Wheatfield	79	27	47	-1	0.06	1		1.06	-0.96	4	28	+8
Winamac	77	27	47	-3	0.00	0	51	0.85	-1.11	1	30	+2
North Central(2)												
Logansport	75	30	47	-3	0.09	1		0.52	-1.28	6	26	-1
Plymouth	75	27	46	-5	0.02	1		1.24	-0.80	5	28	-4
South_Bend	75	27	47	-2	0.06	2		1.04	-1.04	8	32	+10
Young_America	77	27	49	+0	0.12	1		0.48	-1.32	3	43	+16
Northeast(3)												
Bluffton	76	28	47	-3	0.08	1	44	0.58	-1.41	3	33	+3
Fort_Wayne	75	27	47	-2	0.04	2		0.63	-1.15	3	37	+13
West Central(4)												
Crawfordsville	73	27	46	-6	0.25	1	49	0.72	-1.45	5	21	-25
Perrysville	72	20	48	-4	0.36	1	51	0.43	-1.63	2	33	-6
Terre_Haute_Ag	72	29	52	-2	0.22	2	52	1.95	-0.06	4	47	-4
W_Lafayette_6NW	76	23	49	-1	0.19	1	48	0.39	-1.52	3	41	+12
Central(5)												
Castleton	74	30	49	-3	0.14	2		2.09	+0.17	8	31	-9
Greenfield	74	30	50	-2	0.15	2		2.93	+0.85	8	39	+5
Greensburg	74	31	50	-2	0.10	1		3.14	+1.05	7	40	-2
Indianapolis_AP	71	29	51	-2	0.13	2		2.32	+0.38	7	49	+4
Indianapolis_SE	72	27	50	-2	0.11	1		2.71	+0.79	5	37	-3
Tipton_Ag	74	26	46	-4	0.15	2	48	0.64	-1.42	5	26	+5
East Central(6)												
Farmland	75	28	47	-2	0.18	2	44	2.95	+1.05	8	26	+7
New_Castle	73	23	46	-4	0.13	3		2.67	+0.54	10	21	+0
Southwest(7)												
Dubois_Ag	72	33	53	+0	0.03	1	54	2.42	+0.19	6	69	+4
Evansville	70	33	54	-2	0.00	0		1.50	-0.62	4	86	-3
Freelandville	72	32	51	-2	0.00	0		2.54	+0.57	3	46	-14
Shoals	73	26	51	-3	0.00	0		1.66	-0.47	5	48	-11
Vincennes_5NE	71	32	51	-3	0.08	2	48	1.30	-0.67	5	41	-19
South Central(8)												
Bloomington	73	27	50	-4	0.00	0		2.24	+0.22	4	38	-20
Tell_City	72	30	53	-3	0.11	1		2.23	-0.33	5	71	-7
Southeast(9)												
Scottsburg	75	32	52	-2	0.04	1		2.10	-0.13	6	49	-11

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

- Don't spray burndown herbicides too early. When the temperatures are in the 50's, these products do not work as well as they do when the temperature is in the 70's or higher. Likewise, don't spray postemergence herbicides when there has been a postemergence herbicides when there has been a prolonged dry period and the temperatures is in the high 90's. Usually this causes excessive crop damage and is not very effective at controlling weeds.
- Use good agronomic practices to get a healthy well established uniform crop stand. The good start and early crop competition will reduce the need for rescue treatments and the overall cost of herbicides by shading out late emerging weeds.
- Control weeds that emerge after the crop earlier than ususal. This will allow for the use of less than maximum label rates of herbicides and reduce yield loss from early season weed competition, a critical time during crop development. Also, leave the weeds that come in after mid season unless they are extremely heavy and large. These weeds seldom cause yield losses.
- Use the correct spray additives with burndown and postemergence herbicides. Use only those that are recommended on the product label. Many products will perform equally well, thus buy the cheapest ones. Use AMS with Roundup and other herbicide products that call for this additive on their label, especially when using hard water or water high in iron content. The new glyphosate (the active ingredient in Roundup) containing herbicides vary in their pre-packaged surfactant loads and therefore may require different additives at various rates.
- When using less than the labeled rates of postemergence herbicides, spray earlier than normal to achieve good weed control. Be prepared to make a second application 10 to 14 days later if the reduced rates were not totally effective.
- With highly mobile herbicides such as Roundup, Select, Poast or other grass specific products, reduce the spray volume to improve the performance of the herbicide. With Basagran, Blazer, Cobra, Reflex or other contact sprays, use the higher labeled recommended volume for best results.
- Calibrate the spray equipment and use the proper nozzles to achieve the best coverage and reduce drift. Periodically check to ensure that the sprayer is still calibrated throughout the spraying season. The majority of sprayers over apply by 10 to 30% due to poor calibration and worn tips.

–Thomas N. Jordan, Purdue University

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